



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

Serial:
10 APR 1979

SUBJECT: Report to the Security Committee

TO: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
ATTN: Mr. Gambino
Washington, DC 20505

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1. Since January, the Computer Security Subcommittee has been considering a proposal which would ask the Security Committee and the DCI to expand the charter of the subcommittee to include computers used in communicating data, as well as storing and processing data. This proposal, which originated with the chairman, would seek amendment to DCID 1/11 to add the word "communicated" to the phrase "...data stored and processed by computer" in the first paragraph of DCID 1/11.

2. It is the position of the Chairman of the Computer Security Subcommittee that excluding the computers used in communicating data leaves a serious flaw in the computer security area and in the functions of the subcommittee with respect to computer security. Up to now, computer security in communication computers has been treated more-or-less as a COMSEC matter, under the aegis of the former COMSEC board. The draft charter for the new COMSEC committee includes language that could be interpreted to cover computers in communications--or computers used in a broader context.

3. One of the general complications in this area is that precise boundaries on how computers are being used are becoming harder and harder to define. Almost every general usage computer now has more communications functions and future communications computers in networks such as AUTODIN II will have a broader set of functions than are now treated by AUTODIN I switches.

4. After some discussion in the subcommittee, it was decided to seek an opinion from the Security Committee on whether it believes that the subcommittee's charter should be expanded as described above. It is the general view of the subcommittee that work on a revision of DCID 1/16 should begin soon and it would be appropriate to know before starting this revision whether to include computers used in communications.

Serial: T4017

5. In addition to the above effort, the subcommittee has been briefed by [] of DIA on his work on Walsh committee sub-task. The specific sub-task is to evaluate impact of proposed classification changes on computer and telecommunications systems. The briefing was for information purposes only.

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6. The subcommittee has also received a briefing on the most current work in recovering "magnetic" remnants and residual information in semiconductor components. The status of this work will be summarized in the minutes of the March meeting or attached to these minutes.

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Chairman, Computer Security Subcommittee

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